

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, November 16. 1706.

THE great Cry in *Scotland* against the Union, I mean, among such as really are worth Notice, is the *Danger of their Kirk*, a Cry we have had in *England*, with as little Reason and much less Sincerity; and I cannot help saying, I think, even these People are too much influenc'd against their own Interest by need less Jealousies.

They seem to me a little insatuated, and to argue against themselves; for in order to prove that such a thing as attempting the Suppression of *Presbytery* in *Scotland* may come to pass, they bring upon the Stage all Instances of these Attempts, in which the People attempting have miscarried, and can tell but one in which they succeeded, *Viz.* The putting the Test upon *Ireland*, which by the Way, had never pass'd neither, had not the *Dissenters*, in meer Self-Denial

for the publick Good, rested under the Hardship, rather than venture to lose the Bill against the Growth of Popery; a thing, these Gentlemen, I suppose, knew nothing of, and a Generosity the other Party are but very little acquainted with.

'Tis hard now, Gentlemen, that because the High-Flying *Churchmen* have always attempted the *Dissenters* in *England*, AND MISCARRIED, to argue from thence that they shall insult the *Scots* Settlement, AND SUCCEED: I think, it had been a much stronger Way of arguing, to say, that being unable with their united Strength ever to gain upon the *Dissenters* in *England*, who, by their own Calculation are not above one to twelve, they shall certainly be less able to prevail, when they act in Conjunction with the *Scots* Interest and Members.

As

As to the Occasional Bill, and the Nearness of its being pass'd, 'tis plain it was a Surprize, the Snare was not seen at first, but with what Indignation the Reserves and secret Designs against the *Dissenters* were treated when discover'd, I leave to the Reader to find in the Journals of both Houses.

From hence we come to the Probabilities on the other hand, *Viz.* That there is no Danger of the *Scotts* Parliament being seduced; the same Author grants the new 45 and 16 may be bought by the *English* Court, but the whole Parliament cannot be so; — And yet I believe, most People will joy in this, that let the Court at any time be sure to buy 45 and 16 in either Parliament, they shall, generally speaking, carry any thing they desire: So that this is absurd, and by no means a just Way of arguing.

Another Consideration takes off very much of the Credit of this Kind of arguing, *Viz.* That the Act making it Treason to impugn any Article of the Claim of Right, makes it dangerous to attempt this in the Parliament of *Scotland*.

I cannot but be surpriz'd to find, any Man can say, this is not an Argument just the other Way; that it is not as lawful a Security to the Church of *Scotland* in the *English* Parliament, or in the Parliament of *Britain*, as in that of *Scotland*.

Is not this Act to remain in Force after the Union? And may it not be made a Part of the Treaty, and can the Parliament vote, what is declar'd to be high Treason to attempt? 'Tis certainly as great a Security to the Church of *Scotland* as can be desired, and 'tis declared high Treason to impugn her Settlement.

Shall it be objected, that the Parliament of *Britain* may repeal this? I answer, and so may the Parliament of *Scotland*, whenever they please, as it now stands; but if made a Capitulation of the Treaty, according to my Notion of the Treaty, it can never be altered but by meer Tyranny, Perjury, Violence and Usurpation.

This is the present Security of the Presbyterian Church of *Scotland*; She is established by Parliament, the Sovereign is sworn

not to alter it, and it is high Treason in the Subject to attempt it; and all this made a Stipulation previous to the Treaty, which cannot be broken. If this be not Security sufficient, I should be glad to see something better offer'd to the High Commissioner, that according to his Grace's Speech, it may be pass'd into such a Law, as may make them fully ealie.

It is unhappy, that the Gentlemen, who argue on this Head, will allow the Church of *England*, or the Court, or both, may have an Influence over the whole Parliament of *Britain*, but cannot have an Influence over the so much smaller Parliament of *Scotland*, and yet all the Reserves, they say, are now concerted in *England*.

I have heard it suggested by the Enemies of the *Scotts* Nation, that they are poor and mercenary, and may be brought by the Court with 100000 *l.* If this Slander be true, 'tis first a Sign that the present Government in *England* does not bribe them now. Secondly, 'tis plain, that they are not to be brib'd into the Union; for that the Money has not produc'd the Effect yet, and the Court of *England*, or High Church, have not on all Emergencies bought such Bills, as they have had Occasion for.

On the other hand, these Gentlemen put so little Stress on the 45 Votes in the House of Commons in *Britain*, that they think they may be always out-voted, and the *Scotts* may have the bad Luck to have no Friends in the House of Commons, but their own 45.

Now, this is the very Pretence on the other Part of the Question in *England*, where the Gentlemen put us in Mind, how fatal the 45 Members may be to the Church, in Conjunction with the *Whigs* already here; and I am in a seeming Straight in pushing either Part of the Argument, both sides taking hold of it. If I say in *England*, the *Whigs* are too few to hurt the Church; then say the *Scotts*, they are too few to secure Us: If I say in *Scotland*, they are enough to secure you; then say they in *England*, they are enough to hurt Us.

This is a very unhappy Case, and the Artifices of our Writers on this Head seem very mean here; they are forc'd to run Counter against one another, and make such

such Shifts, Turns and Doubles, to bring things to bear, as I cannot but wonder at.

'Tis indeed a Sign of a lost Cause, and I am glad to see such Shifts made with Respect to the Extremity, I find them re-

duced to ; but if I look on the really ridiculous Way of arguing, methinks 'tis a certain Sign, how low the Stream of Reasoning runs with them ; and I refer to my next for the Particulars.

MISCELLANEA.

THE Remoteness of the Author, 'tis hop'd, will plead an Excuse to the World, for his no sooner publishing this his Vindication.

AS nothing has been more villainous, than the Treatment the Author of this Paper has met with from the News-Letter-Writers of the Town ; so 'tis most remarkable, that these Attacks have been made upon me, when absent from the Town, and not at hand to answer for or defend my self.

And I cannot but tell a short Story of this, to remind the World, with what Barbarity I have been us'd on this Account. 'Tis not two Year since, being at Bury in Suffolk, and going into a Coffee-house there to read the News, I found to my Surprize an Account, that sundry Persons were taken up in London for scandalous Libels, that Warrants were out for Daniel De Foe, but he was fled from Justice—— I cannot deny, but I was mov'd at this Barbarity, and enquiring who was the Author of that Letter, I was told, it was one Mr. Fox a Bookseller in Westminster-Hall, to whom I have however been so civil, that I gave him no Trouble on that Score, which I might well have done, having, I think, very good Proof of it, which he may improve how he pleases.

On Reading this, I took immediately a Pen and Ink, and wrote under the Paragraph these Words, (*Vir.*) *This is a D—d Lye, for Daniel De Foe is now in this Town, and at such a House, where any Man that pleases may speak with him.*——And that I might discharge my self honourably, I wrote immediately to the Right Honourable Sir Charles Hedges, Secretary of State, to ac-

quaint him where I was ; and that if there was any Complaint against me, and he would please to signify his Pleasure to me by Letter, that it was needful for me to appear, I would take Post immediately, and put my self into his Hands ; and I make no Question, but Mr. Secretary Hedges will on all Occasions do me Justice on this Account.

'Tis not worth while to hint here the barbarous Treatment of a certain Messenger, who all that while gave out, he was in Search of me, and wanted to apprehend me ; to whom when I came to Town, I sent to know, if he had any Business with me, and that if he had, I was come, and would meet him where he pleas'd, and he own'd, he had nothing to say to me, nor any Order to stop me ; but to name the Man would be an Answer to that.

All this is introductory to the History of my present Treatment ; being not only at present out of the Town, but out of the Kingdom, pursuing my private, lawful and known Design of settling my Family abroad, and letting the World know, I do not live by Scribbling, as is suggested.

And the first Compliment I met with, was in Mr. Dyer's Letter, that I had, in one of my *Reviews*, abused a certain eminent and honourable Person : I really took this for so empty a Slander, that I could not have the least Shadow of Uneasiness about it, knowing my self so free, so much as in Thought, from ever having said any thing reflecting on that eminent and worthy Person, that no Man in England has more Honour for his Character, real Veneration for his exalted Merit, or true Respect for his Person, than my self.

I was therefore the more surpriz'd, when I had Notice, that the Publisher of this Paper has been taken up, and held to Bail on this Account.

I really reckon his Lordship a Glory to this Nation, an Honour to the Bench, and that great Part of the Happiness *England* enjoys by the Revolution; in being restor'd to just Judges, is exemplified in his Lordship's unbiass'd Justice, steady Courage and consummate Experience.

I am so far from saying this to flatter or make fair Weather in this Case, that I can call a thousand Witnesses to prove, it has always been my Opinion; and as his Lordship is above my Flattery, so am I, asking Pardon for the Word, so far above the Fear of Man, as not to flatter the greatest Man alive.

But in Plainness and Regard to Justice, I make this Protestation, that in the *Review* which is now excepted against, I had no Thoughts of that worthy Person—— Nor in any thing I ever wrote, have I made any dishonourable Mention of him, or Reflection upon him, or intended to do so.

As to what I have hinted of a certain Person of Honour making a popular Speech, seeming to applaud, but understood to be a Banter upon the Union, or of any thing else in the said *Review*; I only beg, that being at this Time out of *England*, no Advantages against Printers or Publishers may be taken for Want of my appearing, they being innocent Persons in this Case; and I shall not fail to offer my self, if it please God to bring me back to *England* again, to Justice; and satisfy his Lordship, that I was far from having the least Design of reflecting upon him in it.

D. F.

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